

REMARKS

Claims 2, 5-7, 10-12, 21 and 23 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 18-19 are canceled. Claims 1, 3-4, 8-9, 13-17, 20 and 22 were previously canceled.

Reconsideration and review of the claims on the merits are respectfully requested.

Allowable Claims

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 2, 5-7, 10-12, and 23 remain allowed for the reasons of record.

The Examiner states that Claim 21 is objected to and would be allowable if written in independent form.

In response, as stated above, Applicants amend Claim 21 to be written in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 23 is amended to include a missing temperature degree symbol. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, Applicants earnestly request allowance of Claims 2, 5-7, 10-12, 21 and 23.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102/§ 103

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over EP 070143 or J09151279.

Applicants respond by canceling Claims 18 and 19, thereby making the rejection of these claims moot.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/326,691

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

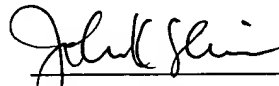
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

 **JOHN P. SKIN**
Lee C. Wright REG. NO. 40,409
Registration No. 41,441

Date: April 9, 2004